

Message

From: Thayer, Kris [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3CE4AE3F107749C6815F243260DF98C3-THAYER, KRI]
Sent: 2/14/2019 3:58:52 PM
To: Shams, Dahnish [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b7037e39bb6341c8850bcd61bf9d65a-Shams, Dahn]; Soto, Vicki [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a960b18ed5c440d69eb9db21b8565f97-Soto, Vicki]; Avery, James [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b0fc9e70467647709fa9377dfb987f10-Avery, James]; Bahadori, Tina [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7da7967dcafb4c5bbc39c666fee31ec3-Bahadori, Tina]; Jones, Samantha [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=eac77fe3b20c4667b8c534c90c15a830-Jones, Samantha]; Lavoie, Emma [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=86ac7844f12646c095e4e9093a941623-Lavoie, Emma]; Andrew Kraft (Kraft.Andrew@epa.gov) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4a94a4f199b247778abb02285a51b927-Kraft, Andrew]; Glenn, Barbara [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7a2dc9210d2d4d02a623b33f87f49436-Glenn, Barbara]; Lee, Janice [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=b5d72226848849279376f33f6d0b9845-Lee, Janice]; Ravi Subramaniam (Subramaniam.Ravi@epa.gov) [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e738f9d27062486e9047184b867fd968-Subramaniam, Ravi]; Rieth, Susan [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=00aac63cc995489188b8a449aaa18f5e-Rieth, Susan]; Ross, Mary [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98359cd1f66f46ec91d327e99a3c6909-Ross, Mary]
Subject: FW: EDF blog post: The Trump EPA's actions on formaldehyde can be summed up in one word: Corrupt

From: Richard Denison <rdenison@edf.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2019 10:49 AM
To: rdenison@edf.org
Subject: EDF blog post: The Trump EPA's actions on formaldehyde can be summed up in one word: Corrupt

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The Trump EPA's actions on formaldehyde can be summed up in one word: Corrupt

By Richard Denison / Bio / Published: February 14, 2019

Richard Denison, Ph.D., is a Lead Senior Scientist.

Today, Heidi Vogt at the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the systematic efforts by the Trump Administration to derail chemical assessments under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS).

The WSJ article cites an upcoming report by Congress' Government Accountability Office (GAO) that notes "EPA leadership in October directed the heads of the agency's various programs to limit the number of chemicals they wanted IRIS to study or continue researching. Nine of 16 assessments were then dropped, including one that looked at whether exposure to formaldehyde increases the risk of leukemia that "has been drafted and is ready to be released for public comment." The chemical industry has long sought to undermine the findings of numerous governmental authorities that have identified the dangers posed by formaldehyde, one of the industry's biggest cash cows.

IRIS itself has also long been a target of the chemical and allied industries, including those well represented by EPA political appointees who are now able to drive the assault on IRIS from inside the agency.

This post will provide more of the backstory to the WSJ's excellent reporting. It reveals ***additional decisions being made as I write by conflicted political appointees, not only to derail the beleaguered IRIS assessment for formaldehyde, a known human carcinogen, but to transfer any further assessment of the chemical to be under the control of those same political appointees.*** What is happening here we believe is ripe for further investigation. [Read More »](#)

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